

MINUTES OF A REGULAR MEETING OF THE TORRANCE COMMISSION ON AGING

CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order on April 10, 2012 at 9:30 a.m. in the Hosler Conference Room at the Bartlett Senior Citizen Center.

ROLL CALL/MOTIONS FOR EXCUSED ABSENCE

Present: Commissioners Craft*, Davis, Kraemer, Robelotto, Virobik, and Chairperson Kimmel-Dagostino

Absent: None

Staff: Senior Recreation Supervisor Wand

*Commissioner Craft arrived at 9:32 a.m.

Chairperson Kimmel-Dagostino stated that Commissioner Draper had resigned as he was moving out of Torrance.

FLAG SALUTE

Commissioner Robelotto led the Pledge of Allegiance.

INSPIRATIONAL

Former Commissioner Griffith provided the following inspiration from Billy Graham's book on aging:

Billy Graham's wife, Ruth, asked that her tombstone read "end of construction, thank you for your patience" after they had seen a similar sign while traveling on a road under repair. She thought that people were under construction for their entire life and because of that we should thank others for being patient with us.

ACCEPT AND FILE AFFIDAVIT OF AGENDA POSTING

MOTION: Commissioner Robelotto moved and Commissioner Kraemer seconded, to accept and file the Affidavit of Agenda Posting for its meeting of April 10, 2012. The motion passed by a unanimous roll call vote.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

MOTION: Commissioner Kraemer moved and Commissioner Davis seconded, to approve the minutes of the Commission on Aging meeting of March 13, 2012. The motion passed by a unanimous roll call vote.

INTRODUCTION OF GUESTS

Former Commissioner Griffith, LACCOA

Vickie Hershberger, Torrance Memorial Medical Center

Elsa Leon, Torrance Resident

Lorraine Jacobo, Torrance Resident

SENIOR CITIZENS CONCERNS

A. City Council Activities

Commissioner Kraemer reported that the City would begin a Hometown Heroes Banner Program for those that were currently serving in the military.

Commissioner Kraemer stated that Councilman Sutherland had stated that the City budget was still in good shape, in part due to that fact that the City was not filling vacancies.

Commissioner Kraemer noted that City staff would look into the possibility of combining the Traffic and Environmental Commissions and the Cable and Cultural Arts Commissions.

Commissioner Kraemer reported that the Mayor had stated that Louie Zamperini had offered to donate some items to the City, but that the City would need to discuss how to support the cost of displaying the items.

Chairperson Kimmel-Dagostino noted that on April 10 on 5:30 p.m., the City Council would host a Public Workshop on the current and future impact of the Criminal Justice Realignment Plan on the City. She stated that the plan was part of Assembly Bill 109 and concerned the overcrowding in the prisons and the early release of prisoners.

Former Commissioner Griffith noted that the Hometown Heroes Banner program could support twenty banners at a time and that the banner would be paid for by the family, who would receive the banner after it had been on display for 3 months.

B. Housing

Commissioner Kraemer stated that there had been discussions in Sacramento on the possibility of using any leftover redevelopment money to fund low cost housing.

C. Health

Commissioner Davis reported on a health program titled "Farewell to Falls" on UCTV, with Ellen Coman, which reported on the dangers and prevalence of falls and included preventative measures and assessment procedures.

Vickie Hershberger stated that Torrance Memorial Medical Center had a fall prevention class starting on May 9 and a BEST class, which continued the training procedures taught during the fall prevention classes.

Commissioner Robelotto reported on a series of articles in the Los Angeles Times by Steve Lopez on his father's illness and eventual death which included 2 websites with information on end of life choices: compassionandchoices.org and coalitionccc.org

Vickie Hershberger noted that Torrance Memorial Medical Center had a free packet at Health Links with information on advance directives.

D. Transportation

Chairperson Kimmel-Dagostino reported that Jim Mills of the Transit Department had stated that the City would receive 8-10 CNG (compressed natural gas) buses within the next 60 to 90 days.

E. Community Programs

Commissioner Davis noted the Woman's Club Fashion Show would be on April 14.

Senior Recreation Supervisor Wand announced that the 2nd Annual Senior Prom would be April 13 at 12:30 p.m. at the Ken Miller Recreational Center.

Commissioner Davis noted that Mary Lou Weiss was the guest speaker at the Woman's Club meeting and that she had complimented all of the senior volunteers at the Farmer's Market.

Chairperson Kimmel-Dagostino reported that the Torrance Sister City Association Bunka-Sai would be April 21-22 at the Ken Miller Recreational Center.

Chairperson Kimmel-Dagostino noted that a B-17 bomber would be on at Zamperini Field on April 20 – April 22.

Chairperson Kimmel-Dagostino announced that the Torrance Advantage awards were held on April 4 and that the YMCA and the Travel Lodge had received awards.

Former Commissioner Griffith reported that on April 29 the Torrance Performing Arts Consortium would hold a free Centennial event in Torino Plaza at 3:30 p.m.

Commissioner Davis noted that there would be a bus tour on April 15 conducted by Debbie Hays and Janet Payne of Louis Zamperini sites in Torrance.

F. Focal Point Program

Commissioner Virobik reported the following Focal Point statistics for the month of:

March 2012

Total number of documented calls: 46	Total number of callbacks: 18
Miscellaneous calls: 64	Total number of walk-ins: 26
Total number of calls received: 110	

Of the documented calls:

9.2% were in regard to transportation	6.6% were for housing
6.6% were for in home services	

Commissioner Virobik reported that in March, Focal Point gave three presentations at: a senior fair expo In Wilmington, a Torrance Memorial Medical Center caregiver class and a mobile home association.

G. Elder Abuse/Fraud

Commissioner Craft reported on a phone scam.

OLDER AMERICANS RECOGNITION

Senior Recreation Supervisor Wand stated that the City Council's Older Americans Recognition presentation would be on May 8 at 7:00 p.m. at the City Council meeting. She added that all of the Commissioners were encouraged and invited to come to the meeting and support the recipients.

Commissioner Craft stated that he would not be able to attend the presentation.

Senior Recreation Supervisor Wand noted that the County recognition award would be on May 30. She added that she was not yet sure of the number of guests that would be allowed, but would let the Commissioners know if there were spaces available.

There was a discussion of speaking on the increase to the tour fees at the May 8 budget meeting at City Council.

Chairperson Kimmel-Dagostino distributed a draft of a letter to the City Council, requesting that the City revisit the current pricing levels of the Torrance Travelers Tours.

In response to a question from Commissioner Robelotto, Senior Recreation Supervisor Wand stated that the fees had been increased because the indirect costs were no longer subsidized by the City but had to be added on to the fee charged for the Tours.

It was decided to ask people who had participated in the tours to come forward and speak at a City Council meeting about the increased fees for the tours.

Senior Recreation Supervisor Wand stated that the draft letter to City Council regarding the fee increase needed to have any changes made that the Commission wished and then be placed on the agenda for the May meeting for approval. She noted that the letter could be ready for the May budget meetings at the City Council.

It was decided that all the Commissioners would sign the letter.

There was a discussion on other options for operating tours.

MOTION: Commissioner Robelotto moved and Commissioner Craft seconded, to accept the draft of the letter to City Council regarding tour fee increases and to place it on the agenda for the May meeting for approval and signatures. The motion passed by a unanimous roll call vote.

ORALS/ANNOUNCEMENTS

Chairperson Kimmel-Dagostino stated that Commissioner Draper had resigned and the Commission would be short a Commissioner until January.

Chairperson Kimmel-Dagostino stated that the Commissioner training would be on May 9 and October 30. She added that the Commissioners needed to check with City Clerk Herbers if they had any question as to whether they needed to attend the training.

Commissioner Davis stated that she did not want to receive her \$10 from the City for Commission meetings. Senior Recreation Supervisor Wand stated that she would note that on the attendance sheet.

Former Commissioner Griffith announced that LACCOA had joined the group that met at the California Endowment building.

Former Commissioner Griffith reported that on May 7 there would be a meeting at the California Endowment of groups interested in preserving senior programs, such as adult day care, that were in danger of being cut.

Former Commissioner Griffith announced that LACCOA had joined the California Endowment.

Vickie Hershberger, Torrance Memorial Medical Center, announced a free workshop on advance health care directives on May 17. She added that there would be lectures on Parkinson's in April, allergies in May and a free lecture on understanding Medi-cal on April 17. She noted that there would be OR show and tell on May 22.

Vickie Hershberger stated that senior gardening classes would begin on May 24 and Heart Health day was on May 1. She noted that to register you could call: 310-517-4703.

Chairperson Kimmel-Dagostino noted that at the next meeting there would be a presentation on disaster preparedness for seniors, which would include map your neighborhood, CERT and neighborhood watch programs.

Commissioner Davis noted that the Woman's Club had had generous donations from the the community and were able to assist the Redondo Beach Woman's Club with their baby shower for infants in foster care.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 11:00 a.m. to the regular meeting on Tuesday, May 8, 2012 at 9:30 a.m. in the Hosler Conference Room at the Bartlett Senior Citizens Center.

Approved as Amended May 8, 2012 s/ Sue Herbers, City Clerk
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